

REMARKS

The Office Action of December 29, 2003 has been carefully considered.

As requested in the Office Action, annotated marked-up drawings, with changes shown in red, have been submitted.

Also submitted is a new, clearly labeled, clean copy of the substitute specification with no strike throughs or underlining.

Claims 7, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

With regard to claim 7, this claim was not written in Jepson format. The claim is directed to a process for controlling precipitation of alumina hydrate in a BAYER circuit by performing steps a) and b) as recited in the claim. However, because of the rather detailed descriptions necessary in the preamble for both the process and the BAYER circuit, it was thought to be most efficient to begin the claim with the phrase "in a BAYER circuit..." rather than to insert this phrase in the middle of the preamble.

In light of this, the preamble may also be read as:

"A process for controlling precipitation of alumina hydrate in a BAYER circuit, wherein the BAYER circuit includes a preliminary agglomeration phase, a crystal growth phase and a classification phase, and wherein the precipitation is from a slurry resulting from introduction of recycled alumina trihydrate seed into an aluminate liquor, in which particle size quality of alumina hydrate produced in the circuit and circulating in feed tanks is monitored, comprising the steps of:"

Claims 7, 13 and 14 have been amended to recite that X1 and X2 are in microns.

In claim 13, "relation" has been changed to

"relationship" to agree with the language of claim 7.

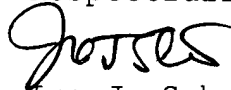
Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The allowability of the claims over the art of record has been noted.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that further amendments are necessary to place this application in condition for allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss such changes before issuing a further Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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